

I Claim

1. A device to provide a graphical user interface for selecting content from a plurality of sources thereof, the user interface comprising: a focus region, and first and second transversely extending scroll bars which each comprise a plurality of scroll bar elements that can be scrolled successively through the focus region, the scroll bar elements of the first scroll bar signifying groupings of content sources, such that when elements of the first scroll bar are scrolled individually into the focus region, the scroll bar elements of the second scroll bar signify content sources which are included within a grouping thereof associated with the individual element of the first scroll bar, whereby the scroll bar elements of the second scroll bar can be scrolled through the focus region to select a content source of the grouping, at least one of the scroll bar elements of the first scroll bar comprising a multiple depiction of more than one of said content source groupings, whereby an individual one of the groupings may be selected from the multiple depiction for the focus region.
2. The device of claim 1 wherein the multiple depiction of said more than one content source groupings comprises a three dimensional depiction thereof.
3. The device of claim 1 wherein the scroll bar elements of the first scroll bar include facets that signify individual groupings of the content sources.
4. The device of claim 1 wherein the elements are polygonal and are rotatable about a common axis extending longitudinally of the first scroll bar.
5. The device of claim 4 wherein the elements are rotatable in unison about said axis.
6. The device of claim 3 wherein the elements each include a facets associated with respective different users.

7. The device of claim 1 further including a controller operable by a user to scroll the scroll bars individually through the focus region

8. The device of claim 7 wherein the controller includes a selector device to select a content source corresponding to an individual scroll bar element when scrolled into the focus region.

9. An interactive display device for displaying content from a plurality of different sources thereof on a display screen, comprising:

10 circuitry to be coupled to the display screen for providing thereon a graphical user interface device for selecting content from the sources thereof, the user interface comprising: a focus region, and first and second transversely extending scroll bars which each comprise a plurality of scroll bar elements that can be scrolled successively through the focus region, the scroll bar elements of the first scroll bar signifying groupings of content sources, such that when elements of the first scroll bar are scrolled individually into the focus region, the scroll bar elements of the second scroll bar signify content sources which are included within a grouping thereof associated with the individual element of the first scroll bar, whereby the scroll bar elements of the second scroll bar can be scrolled through the focus region to select a content source of the grouping, at least one of the scroll bar elements of the first scroll bar comprising a multiple depiction of more than one of said content source groupings, whereby an individual one of the groupings may be selected from the multiple depiction for the focus region, and

25 a controller operable by a user to control operation of said circuitry such that the scroll bars of the graphical user interface are scrolled individually through the focus region so that the user can select a content source to be displayed on the display screen.

10. The device of claim 9 further including the display device.

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11. The device according to claim 9 comprising a control unit for a multi-channel television set.

12. The device according to claim 11 and comprising a set top box.
13. The device of claim 9 configured to receive programming data selected from a group consisting of satellite transmissions, cable transmissions, the Internet and pre-recorded digital data.
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14. The device of claim 9 wherein the controller comprises a handheld device connected to the circuitry by a wireless link.
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15. The device of claim 9 wherein the multiple depiction of said more than one content source groupings comprises a three dimensional depiction thereof
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16. A data carrier provided with a program to be run by a processor to provide a graphical user interface for selecting content from a plurality of sources thereof, the user interface comprising: a focus region, and first and second transversely extending scroll bars which each comprise a plurality of scroll bar elements that can be scrolled successively through the focus region, the scroll bar elements of the first scroll bar signifying groupings of content sources, such that when elements of the first scroll bar are scrolled individually into the focus region, the scroll bar elements of the second scroll bar signify content sources which are included within a grouping thereof associated with the individual element of the first scroll bar, whereby the scroll bar elements of the second scroll bar can be scrolled through the focus region to select a content source of the grouping, at least one of the scroll bar elements of the first scroll bar comprising a multiple depiction of more than one of said content source groupings, whereby an individual one of the groupings may be selected from the multiple depiction for the focus region.
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17. A method of operating a graphical user interface to select content from a plurality of sources thereof, the user interface comprising: a focus region, and first and second transversely extending scroll bars which each comprise a plurality of scroll bar elements that can be scrolled successively through the focus region, the scroll bar elements of the first scroll bar signifying groupings of content sources, such that when elements of the first scroll bar are scrolled individually into the
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focus region, the scroll bar elements of the second scroll bar signify content sources which are included within a grouping thereof associated with the individual element of the first scroll bar, at least one of the scroll bar elements of the first scroll bar comprising a multiple depiction of more than one of said content source groupings,
5 the method comprising:

selecting an individual one of the groupings from the multiple depiction for the focus region,

moving the selected grouping into the focus region,

10 displaying sources associated with the grouping in the scroll bar elements of the second scroll bar, and

scrolling the second scroll bar through the focus region whereby to select a source therefrom.

15 18. The method of claim 16 wherein the selecting of the groupings from the multiple depiction includes rotating the elements of the first scroll bar.

19. The method of claim 16 wherein the selecting of the groupings from the multiple depiction includes shuffling facets which signify the groupings.